

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1, 4-15 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,614,290 to Boss in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,938,388 to Bloser et al. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of previous claims 2 and 3. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 3 is directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over any combination of Boss and Bloser. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for

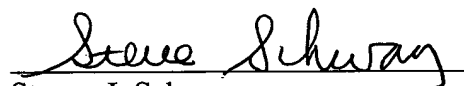
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Appl. No. 10/714,671

any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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